

# VLR SAFETY TAILGATE TALK

February 2017

*Subject: **Bench Grinder Safety***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (garage, mm, etc...):

## Instructions:

Safety Coordinators & Supervisors should use this Tailgate Talk as a guide for discussion during their safety meetings. The primary purpose of the safety meetings is to give crews the opportunity to discuss any safety related concerns they may have.

Once the meeting has concluded, the Presenter should have each employee sign this form and include their Employee ID# in the spaces below.

TGT Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Employee

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Abrasive bench grinders are probably the most common machining tools to be found in any shop and they are used by almost everyone who has access to the equipment, both experienced and in experienced. They are frequently abused and the user is unaware of the potential hazards.

The primary hazard associated with bench grinders (or any powered abrasive wheel) occurs when a wheel disintegrates or "explodes" while under rotation. This will cause solid wheel fragments to fly off at speeds that could exceed 125 miles per hour and cause serious injury, or even death.

## Other hazards include:

- Abrasive contact with the revolving wheel
- Particles or sparks flying into the eye
- Pinched and abraded fingers if the wheel snags the work and pulls the operator's hand down between the work rest and wheel
- Burns from hot metal or sparks
- Loose clothing can be snagged by the rotating wheel or spindle

**To protect yourself and others from these hazards, keep the work rests and guards in place, and properly adjusted as follows:**

- The work rest is required to be adjusted within 1/8-inch of the wheel to keep the wheel from snagging the work.
- The wheel guard should be installed so the entire wheel is enclosed except for the permissible angular exposure openings (total exposure not over 90 degrees and the angle of exposure above the horizontal plane of the spindle not to exceed 65 degrees).
- The adjustable shield should be in place.
- The tongue guard should be adjusted to within 1/4-inch of the wheel and readjusted as the wheel diameter decreases with use.
- Ring test the abrasive wheel before installing it.
- Wear your eye and face protection.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Safety Tailgate Talk or any safety related concerns, please contact the VTrans Safety Team.